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BROMSGROVE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1944.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

- (a) A.B. Follows, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
Medical Officer of Health                      Part time  
& Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.
- (b) H. Holden, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.  
Royal Sanitary Institute Meat & Food Certificate.  
Liverpool University Meat & Food Certificate.
- Senior Sanitary Inspector.  
Meat & Food Inspector.  
Shops Inspector.  
Petroleum Officer.

D.S. Smith, Cert. S.I.B. Additional Sanitary Inspector.  
(Serving with H.M. Forces).

C.J. Burford, Cert. S.I.B. Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector.

R.H.K. Howse (Clerk)  
(Serving with H.M. Forces).

Miss M. Beachin (Clerk)  
(Serving with H.M. Forces).

Temporary Clerks:-

Miss J. Griffiths and Miss D. Aykroyd.

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS:-

A.J. Rae, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

F. Harman Volland, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

PUBLIC VACCINATORS:-

A.J. Rae, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

F. Harman Volland, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BROMSGROVE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1944 on the health of the Bromsgrove Urban District. The statistics show an unusually low Death Rate of 9.9 and a fairly high Birth Rate of 19.7 which compare favourably with the figures for England and Wales namely 11.6 and 17.6 respectively. The Infant Mortality figure however is higher than usual (61.5). This figure represents the number of deaths occurring in the first twelve months of life for every 1,000 births and should be compared with the figure for England and Wales which is 46. The majority of these deaths occurred in the neo-natal period being due to prematurity and congenital malformations - conditions which are not likely to be remedied by improving the health of the expectant mother and securing better arrangements for the lying-in woman.

The housing position has been getting steadily worse; overcrowding must be acute and only urgent repairs can be carried out. The housing records in my possession are now more or less out of date and a re-survey will be required when the position is ascertained and more staff is available.

Good progress has been made with diphtheria immunisation and over 80% of the children in birth groups 5 - 15 and under 5 have now been protected.

Such good work has been done by Dr. Pugh and Nurse Hopkins at the M. J. Sang Centre, Recreation Road in connection with Scabies eradication.

I should like to record my appreciation of the co-operation of the Committee and the Council's officers during the year.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area - 9248 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of  
resident population, mid 1944 - 25,520.  
" 1943 - 25,970.  
" 1942 - 26,860.

Number of inhabited houses - end of 1944 - 7130  
" " " " - end of 1943 - 7130  
" " " " - end of 1942 - 7130

Rateable value, 1st April, 1944 - £137,070.

Rate represented by a Penny Rate - £544.

VITAL STATISTICS.

				Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population:-		
Live Births:	Total.	M.	F.	1944	1943	1942
Legitimate	480	250	230.	19.749	18.021	16.641
Illegitimate	24	15	9			
	504	265	239			
				England and Wales:- 17.6		

Still Births:	Total.	M.	F.	Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births:-
Legitimate	9	7	2	$\frac{1944}{17.543} \quad \frac{1943}{18.867} \quad \frac{1942}{28.60}$
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
	9	7	2	Still Birth Rate per 1000 population: 0.355.
				Still Birth Rate per 1000 population England and Wales:- 0.50.

Deaths: -	Total.	M.	F.	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population:-
	255	135	120.	$\frac{1944}{9.992} \quad \frac{1943}{11.128} \quad \frac{1942}{10.83}$
				England and Wales:- 11.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

Puerperal sepsis 0.  
Other puerperal causes 0.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:-

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	29	14	15
Illegitimate	2	1	1
	31	15	16

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:-	$\frac{1944}{61.507}$	$\frac{1943}{40.598}$	$\frac{1942}{53.69}$
All Infants per 1000 live births			
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	60.416	39.735	51.16
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	83.333	66.66	117.65.
England and Wales:-	46		

Deaths from Cancer (All ages)	43
" " Measles (All ages)	0
" " Whooping Cough (All ages)	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BROMSGROVE URBAN DISTRICT.1944.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	MALES	FEMALES	MORTALITY RATE.
Typhoid and paratyphoid fever	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	1	0.0391
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of the respirat- -ory system	6	6	0.4702
Other forms of tuberculosis	-	1	0.0391
Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
Influenza	3	2	0.1959
Measles	-	-	-
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	-	-	-
Acute infectious encephalitis	1	-	0.0391
Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) & uterus(F)	-	2	0.0783
Cancer of the stomach and duodenum	8	2	0.3918
Cancer of the breast	-	3	0.1175
Cancer of all other sites	17	11	1.0971
Diabetes	-	3	0.1175
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	10	14	0.9404

CAUSE OF DEATH	MALE	FEMALE	MORTALITY RATE
Heart Diseases	30	21	1.9921.
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	4	0.2350
Bronchitis	9	1	0.3918
Pneumonia	10	4	0.5485
Other respiratory diseases	3	-	0.1175
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	3	0.1959
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	1	0.0783
Appendicitis	-	-	-
Other digestive diseases	4	1	0.1959
Hepatitis	-	3	0.1175
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	-	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	-	-
Premature birth	4	8	0.4702
Congenital Malformation, birth injuries and other infant diseases	5	4	0.3526
Suicide	-	1	0.0391
Road traffic accidents	1	2	0.1175
Other violent causes	4	5	0.3526
All other causes	15	17	1.2537
TOTALS	155	120	9.992

#### SECTION B.

##### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Examination of clinical material (swabs, sputa, blood etc.), urine, milk and faeces/stuffs is done by the County Analyst, Shirdell, Worcester.

##### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For Infectious Cases, Ambulance provided by Joint Hospital 30 60.

For Non-Infectious, Accidents and Maternity cases, a motor ambulance maintained and run by the local branch of the Red Cross jointly with the Civil Defence Organisation.

The service in the area is adequate and efficient.

##### NURSING IN THE HOME.

The provision of nursing help in the home has been at times very scarce. An assistance scheme was in operation at the time of the influenza epidemic at the beginning of the year. There is no help provided for infectious cases by the County Council or the local authority. There is no change in the arrangements for nursing help provided by the various Nursing Associations.

##### CLINICAL OPHTHALMOLOGY CLINICS.

There are four of these and these are, for the most part, run by the County Council and are conducted by officers of the County Council.

Most of the ophthalmic work is done at these clinics and the patients are made responsible for the cost of the work devoted to the welfare Centres by voluntary workers is much appreciated.

Statistics of these centres are tabulated below:-



Clinic.	Situation.	Provided by.	Time of holding.
Bromsgrove Infant Welfare Centre.	Recreation Road.	County Council	Wednesday 2.0 p.m.
Catshill Infant Welfare Centre.	Baptist Chapel.	-C- County Council	Friday 2.0 p.m.
Rubery Infant Welfare Centre.	St. Chad's Church Hall.	County Council	Thursday 2.0 p.m.
Bromsgrove Ante-Natal Clinic.	Recreation Road.	County Council	Monday. 2.0 p.m.
School Clinic Bromsgrove.	Recreation Road.	County Council	Wednesday 10.0 a.m.
Dental Clinic	Recreation Road.	County Council	As arranged.
Tuberculosis	Recreation Road.	County Council	Tuesday 2.0 p.m.
Rubery Ante-Natal Clinic	St. Chad's Church Hall.	County Council	Thursday 10.0 a.m.
Diphtheria Immunisation	Bromsgrove Infant Welfare Centre.	Bromsgrove Urban District Council.	2nd & 4th Wednesdays in month 10.0 a.m.

#### HOSPITALS (Public and Voluntary).

There are numerous hospitals and Institutions situated in the Urban District, many of which belong to the City of Birmingham and receive Birmingham patients. The following hospitals, some of which are situated in the District are available to Bromsgrove residents:-

Hospital.	Name.	Situated.	By whom provided
General.	Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital.	Bromsgrove.	Voluntary.
Infectious Disease.	Bromsgrove, Droitwich & Redditch Joint Hospital.	Hill Top, Bromsgrove.	Under Joint Control.
Tuberculosis	Ditto and Knightwick.	Ditto and Knightwick.	County Council.
Smallpox	W.C.C. Smallpox Hospital.	Worcester.	W.C.C.

Hospital.	Name.	Situated	By whom provided.
Maternity.	Mary Stephens. Lucy Baldwin.	Stourbridge. Stourport.	W.C.C. W.C.C.
Children.	Childrens' Hospital.	Birmingham.	By arrangement with County Council
Tonsils and Adenoids.	Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital.	Bromsgrove.	By arrangement with County Council
Scarper 1 Fever and Typhoid.	General Hospital. Royal Infirmary.	Birmingham. Worcester.	By arrangement with County Council.
Institution General	Public Assistance Institution.	Bromsgrove.	W.C.C.
Mental.	Barnsley Hall.	Bromsgrove.	W.C.C.

### SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### WATER SUPPLY

The excellent quality of the water in the district is being maintained. Samples are frequently submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination and below is given the result of an analysis made in June:-

Physical Characters. Clear.  
Colour None.  
Deposit None.  
pH 7.5

Chemical Examination. (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°C)	...	...	None.
Solids in Solution (Dried at 100°C)	...	...	29
" " " After ignition	...	...	22
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	...	3
Iron (as permanent)	...	...	10
" " Temporary	...	...	8
" " Total	...	...	18
Free and Volatile Ammonia	...	...	0.0008
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	0.0008
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	Trace
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	None.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	...	...	None.
Toxic Metals	...	...	None detected.

Notes: To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

#### Bacteriological Examination.

Number of colonies developing upon Agar		
(a) In two days at 17°C	...	...Nil per one m.l.
(b) In three days at 22°C	...	... 1 per " "
Coli-Aerogenes (Presumptive coli) Count	...	...Nil per 100 "
Streptococci	...	...Absent.

Opinion:- The sample is fit for drinking.

The East Wores Water Company have laid the following mains during 1944 and I am indebted to Mr. Bullock, the Engineer - Manager, for this information.

125 yds. 3"	Church Road, Catshill.
390 yds. 6"	Kidderminster Road, Bromsgrove.
125 yds. 3"	Staple Hill, Bromsgrove.

The Church Road extension was to serve five properties which relied on unfit well supplies and the other two extensions were in connection with the provision of water supplies to farms.

A survey of the area was carried out to ascertain the requirements of the district under the Rural Water Supplies Act and ten schemes involving 112 houses having 70 wells were prepared. These schemes were submitted to the County Council and the Ministry of Health.

11 samples of water from wells and springs were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination and eight were reported as unfit for drinking. Action was taken under the Public Health Act and in each case the wells were abandoned and Company's water laid on to the properties.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The need for the resumption of the programme of sewerage roads in the Northern part of the district is very apparent. Cesspools are in use which often give rise to a nuisance and in many cases call for constant attention by the occupier.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Spadesbourne brook which runs through the centre of the town is cleaned out as often as labour difficulties permit. It is observed that the Rodent population of this brook is now considerably decreased and the consequent reduction in infestations of property adjoining the brook is considerable.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

This has been constantly maintained and the details of inspections made are contained in the figures supplied by the Sanitary Inspector in the report attached.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse collection and disposal is supervised by the Surveyor and he has kindly supplied me with the following figures:-

<u>House refuse collected during 1944.</u>	
Loads from bins	1180
Loads from ashpits	207
Loads of night soil	431

#### CAMPING SITES.

No licences were issued during the year under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Visits have been made to Caravan settlements which have arisen during the year and in each case the caravan dwellers have been persuaded to move on.

#### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Bromsgrove is fortunate in not being troubled to any extent by smoke from factory chimneys. The domestic hearth is, however, responsible for much pollution of the atmosphere and I look forward to the time when scientific achievement can produce a smokeless fuel at a price within reach of all consumers.

### SECTION D.

#### HOUSING.

Demolition Orders were made in respect of three houses during the year, owing to the very defective state of the property.



A preliminary Survey carried out by the Sanitary Inspector in 1936 revealed that 712 houses required action under the demolition order and slum clearance provisions of the Housing Act. A new and complete Survey including the assessment of overcrowding in the district is now necessary and, on the release of staff from the services, it is hoped that this work will be proceeded with. The housing needs of the district, to deal with the problem of men finding homes on release from the services, the abatement of overcrowding and the abolition of slums are very great and the provision of houses to meet these demands, will have to be energetically pursued.

### SECTION E.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

##### (a) MILK SUPPLY.

No. of Dairy farms in district	- 30
" " Dairymen registered	- 60
" " T.T. Producers supplying milk in district.	- 3
" " Accredited Producers supplying milk in district.	- 6

Twenty-eight samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination. Five samples failed to pass the methylene blue test and appropriate following up action was taken, the farms being visited and further samples taken and advice given to secure improvements.

Thirty-three visits were made to Cowsheds and forty-three to dairies for the purpose of ascertaining whether the Milk and Dairies Orders were being complied with.

##### (b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Centralised Slaughtering has continued under the Ministry of Food Scheme and consequently the private slaughter houses in the district are not in use. The cottagers' pig is usually slaughtered under very unsatisfactory conditions rendering adequate inspection extremely difficult. Nevertheless 483 such pigs were inspected and pig meat to the total weight of 775 lbs. was found to be unfit for food and was surrendered.

Inspection of food preparing premises, shops and markets has continued, 115 inspections having been made.

### SECTION F.

#### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

##### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1944.

	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	-	-	-
Dysentery	16	16	-
Scarlet Fever	104	72	-
Puerperal Fever	21	20	-
Acute Pneumonia	7	2	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	24	2	-
Whooping Cough	14	-	-
Erysipelas	13	7	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Ophthalmic Neonatorum	14	14	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	2	1
Dysentery	-	-	-
Malaria	4	4	-



The figures given on the previous page can be to some extent misleading, without further enquiry, for the following reasons. The Urban District is well supplied with hospitals, Institutions and Homes of various kinds, the number of institutional beds being 4,786. This number represents an appreciable proportion of the population at risk and the chances of epidemics arising are greater in a closed community. 14 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum and 21 cases of Puerperal Fever were notified from a war-time Maternity Hospital.

Medical practitioners are most helpful in the early notification of cases of Infectious Disease arising.

#### IMMUNISATION.

Number of children treated during the 12 months.

<u>Under 5 years.</u>	<u>5-15 years.</u>	
341	117	= 458

The number of children treated previously

No. of Children immunised	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	
(Over 5)	1282	1116	207	607	446	395	= 4,808
(Under 5)	129	86	108	310	554	570	

Grand total of children immunised 1938-1944 = 5,266

Estimated percentage of children inoculated at the end of 1944, in the two age groups, having regard to the numbers treated privately:-

	<u>Under 5</u>	<u>Over 5</u>
Percentage treated	82.13%	80.52%
untreated	17.87%	19.48%

	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1944</u>
No. of cases of Diphtheria	104	82	50	55	37	21	16
No. of deaths		2	2	1	1	1	-
No. of cases of Diphtheria immunised		-	-	-	4	3	1
Mortality Rate per 100 cases	1.91	2.44	2.0	1.82	2.76	-	-
No. of cases notified from Hospitals and Institutions		8	30	25	27	17	14
							9

The above figures speak for themselves of the value of Immunisation, the steady decline in the number of cases of diphtheria over the past seven years being obvious.

#### SCABIES.

Mostly children have been treated by the Local Authority, 76 cases having been dealt with at the Recreation Road clinic involving 435 treatments. I should like to record my appreciation of the good work done by Dr. Pugh and Nurse Hopkins. 9 cases of a more severe type have been referred to the Tolladine Hospital, Worcester for treatment under a County scheme.

As scabies is essentially a family disease, I suspect that quite a number of adults have been affected and have treated themselves at home, under the advice of their own doctors.

The treatment of Scabies is carried out by immersing the patient in a hot bath for 20 minutes, scrubbing and drying with a rough towel and then using benzyl benzoate emulsion and allowing to dry into the skin.

Each patient averages four treatments each before a cure is effected.

This disease is not compulsorily notifiable.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1944.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-resp.		Respiratory		Non-resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-
15 - 25	1	1	-	-	2	3	-	-
25 - 35	1	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	-
45 - 55	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
55 onwards.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals.	5	7	2	-	7	7	-	-

I remain,  
Your obedient Servant,

A.B. FOLLOWS.

Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BROMSGROVE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my seventh Annual Report on the sanitary inspection of the district for the year 1944.

The increase in the number of visits made was due to work carried out under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, and the survey of the district for the preparation of plans and reports under the Rural Water Supplies Act.

I should like to record my appreciation of the help, co-operation and encouragement I receive from the Chairman and members of the Committee, the officers of the Council and the staff of the Department.

COMPLAINTS.

136 complaints have been received and dealt with during the year.

INSPECTIONS.

	<u>Primary</u> <u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Re-</u> <u>inspections.</u>
Houses under Public Health Acts	85	266
Overcrowding	5	-
Water Supply	245	33
Tents, Vans, Sheds.	23	34
Schools	1	-
Ashes Accommodation	49	95
Accumulations	11	12
Animals or Birds	4	-
Piggeries	16	3
Drainage Inspections	181	185
Drainage Tests	11	-
Closets -Water	14	11
Pails or Privies	4	2
Cesspools	16	4
Sewers and Street Gullies	22	1
Licenced Premises re. Sanitary Accommodation.	14	-
Cowsheds	27	6
Milkshops and Dairies	38	5
Food Poisoning	20	-
Meat Depot	7	-
Food Preparing Premises	28	4
General Food Premises	75	1
Cottager's Pigs	483	11
Certificates of Essentiality	18	1
Factories (with mechanical power)	46	25
Bakehouses	13	4
Shops Act	1	6
Rats and Mice Acts	957	-
Verminous Premises	14	-
Infectious Diseases	150	2
Houses Disinfected	11	-
Housing. Section 11	6	3
Section 25	26	-
Other visits	109	10
Petroleum Act	4	-
Miscellaneous Visits	217	-
Interviews-Owners, Tradesmen etc.	149	-
Totals ....	3,100	724

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

609 visits were made in connection with the inspection of meat and other foods, including 494 visits for the purpose of inspection of cottager's pigs. The surrenders of carcasses and



part carcasses etc. of pigs slaughtered by householders is summarised below:-

Whole Carcasses & Offals	No.	Weight in lbs.	Cause of Surrender
	5	500	Acute Swine Erysipelas and fever. (2) Generalised. Tuberculosis. (1)
Heads	11	235	Tuberculosis
Liver	3	11	"
Lungs	3 sets	9	"
Enteric etc.	6	22	"

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 do not apply to householders slaughtering animals for their own use but the Local Food Executive Officer kindly co-operates by inserting with the licence a notice from this Department urging the Public to notify the slaughter in their own interests. I am pleased to record that in practically all cases an inspection is requested and the decision of the Department accepted without question. Other unsound food inspected and either surrendered or returned to the Ministry of Food Salvage Department is listed below:-

#### Tinned Goods.

Tinned Pork	86 tins
Tongue etc.	95 tins
Soups	39 tins
Baked beans	66 tins
Fish	98 tins
Milk	44 tins
Tinned beef	191 tins
Cake & Pudding mixture	75 tins
Vegetables	48 tins
Fruit and Preserves etc.,	1 tin
Patent Groats	

#### Other Foods.

Fish Cakes	48
Sauces	2 jars
Fish and Meat Paste	265 jars
Biscuits	14 lbs
Cake Flour	1 box
Assorted foods	420 tins
Frozen Pork	187 lbs
Cod	119 lbs
Pork Luncheon Meat	3½ lbs
Sugar	53½ lbs
Sausage	36 lbs
Pkts. Semolina	35 lbs
Beasts Liver	1½ lbs

45 formal samples and 24 informal samples were submitted for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act. All these were of milk. One sample was below the legal limits being deficient in fat to the extent of 3.7%. Further samples were genuine and no action was taken.

87 samples of food, faeces, vomit etc. were submitted for official and bacteriological examination in connection with alleged food poisoning outbreaks.

#### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

6 licences were renewed and one new licence taken out during the year.

The number of licences granted is considerably reduced. This is due to the centralisation of slaughtering which takes place in Birmingham.

#### WATER SUPPLIES.

A survey was carried out of houses in the rural parts of the district for which water mains are not available, and plans were prepared. Estimates obtained from the East Wores. Water Company which were submitted to the Council and then later to the County Council and the Ministry of Health.

The two schemes which require urgent provision of mains are  
 (1) Alfreds Well and District where 41 houses are very badly served with the existing wells, many of which are dry. and  
 (2) Mollys Lane, Shepley - where seven houses have to obtain water from a spring approximately 1,000 yds. away.

12 samples of water have been taken during the year for chemical and bacteriological examination.

Eight samples were found to be unfit for drinking and 24 houses were provided with a mains supply of water.

#### MILK SUPPLY.

The transfer of the powers of inspection of cowsheds from local authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture under the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act has not yet taken place and cowsheds and dairies have continued to receive the same supervision which has been given by this authority for the past seven years. 28 samples of ordinary milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and five of these failed to pass the methylene blue test. Further samples, following visits to the farms, showed the milk to be of accredited standard. Of the 47 samples of milk obtained under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 6 failed to satisfy the requirements of the Order. Following joint visits by the County Sanitary Officer and myself further samples were satisfactory.

One new dairy was established during the year and sterilizing equipment was provided.

The number of licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order is:-

	<u>Pasteurised</u>	<u>Accredited</u>	<u>Tuberculin</u> <u>tested</u>	<u>T.T.</u> <u>(pasteurised)</u>
Bottlers	-	6	1	-
Retailers	4	3	3	-
Producers	-	6	3	-

#### SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

The following main sanitary improvements were effected during the year following the service of notices etc:-

House drainage etc. connected to public sewer	23
Urinals provided	1
Pail closets or Privies abolished	7
Cesspools abolished	18
Pails renewed	1
Ashbins provided	67
Ashpits abolished	8
Floors repaired	17
Roof repaired	14
Wallplaster made good	16
Ceiling plaster made good	15
Defective and obstructed drains repaired	30
Eavesputting repaired or renewed	8
Defective chimneys repaired	4
Flushing cisterns provided or repaired	2
New washing coppers provided	4
Additional W.C's and new pedestals provided	6
Sinks provided	2
Doors repaired	1
Staircases repaired	1
Firegrates repaired	4
Water supplies provided	24
Caravans removed	5
New wash-houses provided	2
Windows repaired	3

#### RODENT CONTROL.

On the 3rd April rodent control was commenced by this authority, the duties under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act having been transferred by the County Council. Two rodent operatives were engaged and, working under the supervision of this Department, an

extensive campaign was commenced to deal with the rat menace. The Brookcourse and private properties near to the brook received the first attention and I am happy to state that the reduction in the number of rats has been very great. It is obvious that a permanent service should be maintained to prevent major infestations again developing.

Rodent control on refuse tips was also taken over from the War Agricultural Committee.

I should like to record my appreciation of the help and advice given by the Ministry of Food Rodent Branch in this work.

No. of pilot baits laid	807
No. of prebaits laid	7,546
" " poison baits laid	1,806
" " post baits laid	420
" " visits made by Sanitary Inspectors	957
" " agreements signed	61
Computed kill (Min. of Food formula)	16,195

#### FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power	71	9	-
Factories without mechanical power.	17	2	-
Other premises (not including Outworkers premises).	-	-	-
Total	88	11	-

#### DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found or brought forward (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness	10	10	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floor.	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:-				
Insufficient	2	1	-	-
Defective or defective	5	5	-	-
Not adequate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences	2	2	-	-
	19	18	-	-

#### DEFECTS REMEDIED AND COMPLIED WITH.

	Served.		Complied with.	
	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal
Public Health Acts	102	12	83	13
Factories Act	11	1	11	1
Wild & Domestic Order	4	-	16	-



COURT PROCEEDINGS.

It was found to be necessary to institute legal proceedings in one case for failure to abate nuisances at two properties. A court order was made requiring abatement of the nuisances within three months.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

47 licences were renewed during 1944 for the storage of 124,814 gallons of petroleum spirit.

Two licences were renewed for the storage of 1224 lbs. of Carbide of Calcium.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. HOLDEN.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

